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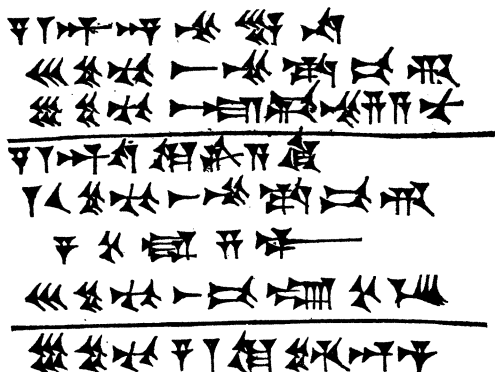
AN ASSYRIAN RECORD OF RECEIPTS OF TAXES.

BY THEO. G. PINCHES,

British Museum, London, England.

The short text given herewith is one of the tablets of the K. (Konymyik) collection in the British Museum, discovered by Sir A. H. Layard. It is inscribed on a small tablet, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches long by $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch broad, six of the eight lines of writing it bears being upon the obverse, and continued, as is usual with tablets of this class, round the edge on the reverse. The style of the writing is Babylonian, and the reproduction here published gives a fair idea of the forms of the characters in the original.

K. 764.



TRANSCRIPTION.

Ša 𐎶𐎵𐎶 Aššur-šum-iddi-na:—
 šelašā zērî ina mu-da-bi-ri;
 šuššu zērî ina âl ga-mu-za-a-nu.

Ša 𐎶𐎵𐎶 Šamaš-di-ni-a-mur:—
 sibā zērî ina mu-da-bi-ri
 ša mât Ra-ša-pi;
 šelašā zērî ina bi-rit šadāni

Šuššu zērî ša 𐎶 Ki-šir 𐎶𐎵 Šur.

TRANSLATION.

From Aššur-šum-iddina:—
 30 of seed from the pasture;
 60 of seed from the city Gamuzanu.

From Šamaš-dîni-âmur :—

70 of seed from the pasture

of the land of Reseph ;

30 of seed from the midst of the mountains.

60 of seed from Kišir-Šur.

Aššur-šum-iddina "Aššur has given a name."

Mudabiri, oblique case, after ina, of mudabiru, defectively written for mudabbiru, participle-noun from the Pu'ul (dubburu) of dabāru, Hebrew דָּבַר *to lead* (flocks and herds) *to pasture*. Whether mudabiru is the same as mudbaru or not is doubtful—mudbaru has probably the meaning of "desert" only. (Compare מִדְבָּר (1) *a pasture*, (2) *a desert*.)

Al Gamuzānu, probably "the city of cypresses." Compare the Heb. גִּמְזוֹן (= גִּמְזוֹן). Most likely near Reseph.

Šamaš-dîni-âmur, probably "I have seen the Sun of judgment" (= "I have seen the Sungod, the judge"). Šamaš was especially regarded by the Babylonians and Assyrians as "the judge."

Mât Rašāpi, רָשָׁפִי, Reseph, the well-known district of Palmyra (see Fried. Delitzsch, *Wo lag das Paradies?* p. 297).

Ina birit šadâni, "in the midst of the mountains," probably the district west of Aleppo. The character MAT-MEŠ may also be read mâtāti *countries*, but this meaning does not fit so well.

Kišir-Šur is probably for Kišir-Aššur, "Aššur's bond," the defective writing indicating either a vulgar pronunciation or a mistake of the scribe.

This interesting little text belongs, probably, to the time of Aššur-banî-apli, and is valuable in showing that the Assyrian dominion over the outlying provinces was at the time real. The three names quoted on the tablet can hardly be other than those of Assyrians; and far though they were from the centre, they had, like all the rest, also to submit to the visits of the tax-gatherer, who was, probably not, at times, over-welcome.